

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-18 (Canceled).

19. (Previously presented) A length of continuously connected fastener stock comprising:

(a) first and second side members; and

(b) a plurality of cross-links interconnecting said first and second side members, each

of said cross-links having a length, a flat surface and an arcuate surface;

(c) wherein said first side member is shaped to extend transversely beyond said flat surface of said cross-links in a direction away from said arcuate surface of said cross-links and wherein said first side member is generally circular with at least one flattened surface when viewed in transverse cross-section taken in a direction along the length of said cross-links.

Claim 20 (Canceled).

21. (Previously presented) The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 19 wherein each of said cross-links is generally semi-circular in transverse cross-section.

22. (Original) The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 21 wherein said second side member is shaped to extend transversely beyond said flat surface.

Claim 23 (Canceled).

24. (Previously presented) The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 22 wherein said first and second side members are substantially identical in size and shape.

Claims 25-31 (Canceled).

32. (Previously presented) The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 19 wherein said first side member is generally circular with a pair of flattened surfaces in transverse cross-section.

Claims 33-36 (Canceled).

37. (Previously presented) The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 19 wherein each of said cross-links asymmetrically bisects said first side member transversely.

Claims 38-40 (Canceled).

41. (Previously presented) A length of continuously connected fastener stock comprising:

(a) first and second side members wherein said first side member is generally circularly shaped with a pair of flattened surfaces in transverse cross-section; and

(b) a plurality of cross-links interconnecting said first and second side members, each of said cross-links having a flat surface;

(c) wherein said first side member is shaped to extend transversely beyond said flat surface of said cross-links with an arcuate surface.

Claims 42-43 (Canceled).

44. (Previously presented) A length of continuously connected fastener stock comprising:

(a) first and second side members, wherein said first side member is generally circular in transverse cross-section; and

(b) a plurality of cross-links interconnecting said first and second side members, each of said plurality of cross-links asymmetrically bisecting said first and second side members.

45. (Original) The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 44 wherein said first side member is generally circular with at least one flattened surface in transverse cross-section.

46. (Original) The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 45 wherein said first side member is generally circular with a pair of flattened surfaces in transverse cross-section.

47. (Currently amended) ~~The A~~ length of continuously connected fastener stock ~~as claimed in claim 44 comprising:~~

(a) first and second side members, wherein said first side member is generally circular in transverse cross-section; and

(b) a plurality of cross-links interconnecting said first and second side members, wherein each of said cross-links has a first edge that lies flush on one side with said first and second side members and a second edge that does not lie flush with said first and second side members.

Claims 48-53 (Canceled).